

SOUTH AMERICA

Summarized extracts from address of John Barrett, director general of the Pan-American Union, Washington, D. C., and formerly United States minister to the Argentine Republic, Panama and Colombia, before the New York Peace society, at its annual meeting, Thursday evening, January 30, 1913.

In the course of his address last night before the New York Peace society, Director General John Barrett, of the Pan-American union, after describing the broad work which the Pan-American union as an international organization of the American republics is doing for peace through the agency of commerce, travel, and general intercourse, and after pointing out what the twenty Latin-American countries are themselves doing for practical peace, said:

"The greatest opportunity and responsibility in the conduct of the foreign affairs of the United States before President-elect Wilson will be in Latin-America. That mighty field presents to him a possible record of achievement offered by no other section of the world.

"Speaking as an international officer of all the American republics south of us, as well as of the United States, that is, elected to my position by the vote of all of the American governments, expressed through their diplomatic representatives in Washington, and knowing their feelings towards the United States, their ambitions and their hopes, and having also learned from my earlier experience among them, as United States minister, what is their mental attitude towards us, as well as what are their resources and possibilities, I trust that my words may not seem amiss.

"The suggestion of this opportunity and responsibility for the new administration is, however, no reflection upon the present or former administrations. It is simply prompted by a realization of the coming progress and potentialities of our sister republics and of how much depends upon the conduct and direction of our diplomacy, our relations and our intercourse with them.

"We have broad opportunities and responsibilities in Europe and in Asia, but the problem in Latin-America is unique. The great question is: Are we to have for the future these twenty countries with us, or against us? Are we to develop confidence among them towards us, as well as commerce with us, or are we, not by intention, but by carelessness of attitude, to foster distrust and thereby injure both our prestige and our trade.

"Remembering that each one of these countries practically gained its independence through the leadership of generals and patriots who were inspired by the example of our own George Washington, and bearing in mind that nearly all of them have written their constitutions upon the constitution of the United States, we owe to them a certain responsibility which weighs upon no other nation of the world.

"If we assume towards them the attitude that we are the 'whole thing,' that we are the biggest power of the earth, and that therefore we must be respected and followed, we may fall; if we, on the other hand, pursue a thoroughly sympathetic and helpful policy and show that we appreciate their progress, their good qualities, and the importance of providing a market in our country for their products, as well as finding a market in theirs for what we manufacture, then we will get results which will count.

"We must do away with the tendency of a section of our press and a considerable number of our states-

men and people to patronize Latin-America and the Latin Americans, to criticize their supposed shortcomings and to insist on their accepting always our point of view. We must remember that they look at many questions from a different standpoint than we do and that they value their independence and their sovereignty just as much as we value ours.

"The opening of the Panama canal should be the formal inauguration of a new era in both commerce and confidence between North and South America. It should celebrate in its physical cutting of the hemisphere a

cementing of closer relations of trade and friendship.

"Under the influence of the propaganda of the Pan-American union, the exchange of commerce between the United States and its twenty sister American republics has grown during the last six years—the period of my administration of that organization—from approximately \$460,000,000 to \$750,000,000, a remarkable increase of nearly \$300,000,000. Following the completion of the Panama canal and the adoption of policies and methods which I have

(Continued on Page 16.)

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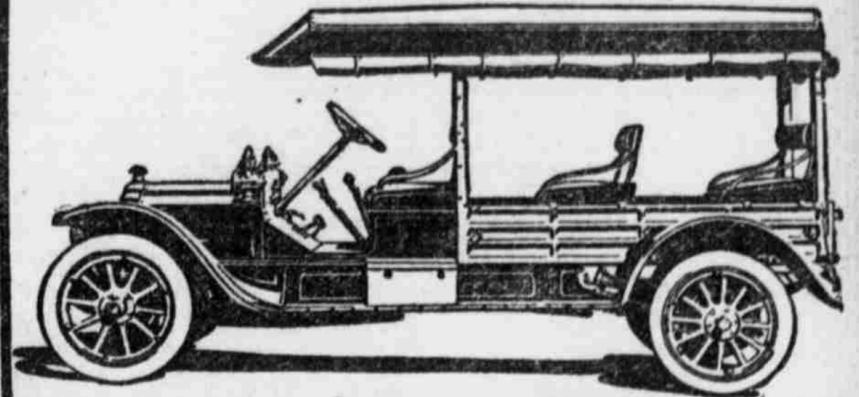
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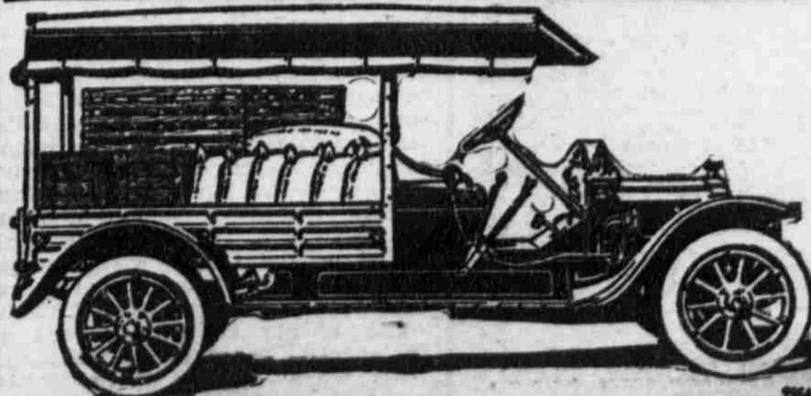
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